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COMMUNITY SUBMISSIONS

Have feedback? New ideas? We would be happy to hear from you! Please contact Jenna Caputo at jcaputo @bestversionmedia.com for information on how to submit ideas, articles, updates, reminders, events, high-resolution photos and more. We will do our best to include as much community information as we can within our space limitations.

MAGAZINE DEADLINES

Please submit your content by the 10th of each month.

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ON THE COVER Marisa Kane

Dear CLIFTON PARK RESIDENTS

Not to minimize the significance of Presidents' Day, but what comes to mind as February approaches is, well, love. Valentine's Day tends to bring out the best in us; a day to show those we love how much they mean to us. Let's take that day to spread not just love, but a little kindness. The benefits of kindness give us happier & bigger hearts, better health and closer-knit neighborhoods, especially right here in Clifton Park! Random acts of kindness are contagious and make our hometown a better place to live.

In celebration of Valentine's Day, we are featuring Marisa Kane (pen name, Annie Stiles), a Clifton Park resident and romance novelist who spreads love and kindness through her books. She's excited to launch her second book in the Heritage View series, which takes place right here in the Hudson Valley. Read more about Marisa and what inspires her in our feature story (see p. 6).

Also in this month's issue are all things wintery, namely Clifton Park Winterfest on February 11 (see p. 19), which is a great event to do some fun things with those you love.

So, as the Beatles say, "All You Need is Love," to make each day a little bit brighter \P .





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Creative Photo and Graphic 518-490-1757 PhotoAndGraphic.com

Rediscovered Postcards of Clifton Park Village

By John L. Scherer, Clifton Park Historian

Linda Sanders, Historian of the Town of Stillwater, recently presented me with three 1931 postcard views of Clifton Park Village. All three views feature different shots of the old Clifton Park Hotel and the businesses that crowded the corners at Route 9 and old Route 146. These photographic views were taken and distributed by Francis G. Aldrich of Mechanicville, a commercial photographer. Cathy Campbell of



Postcard View, Main Street, Four Corner's, Clifton Park, NY showing the Clifton Park Hotel, 1931

Valley Falls, the granddaughter of Mr. Aldrich, donated a collection of her grandfather's postcards, including views of other Saratoga and Warren County locations to the Town

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PhotoAndGraphic.com (518) 490-1757 of Stillwater.

The photographic views are very sharp and contain considerable detail. In fact, I was able to date the views to 1931 based on the license plate of one of the cars. The old hotel was at that time owned by Joseph Kakulski, grandfather of the present owner. Even in 1931, the hotel was regarded as historic, and the name "Colonial Tourist Lodge" is painted on the metal roof.

Clifton Park's first town supervisor, Ephraim Stevens, had built the hotel in the 1820s. Throughout the 19th century, the hotel served as the civic and social center for the towns of Clifton Park and Halfmoon. In fact, the hotel straddles the Clifton Park-Halfmoon town line. In the past, it has served as a town meeting place and as courthouse and jail, as well as providing food, lodging and hosting local entertainment.

The view depicts Route 9 as a two-lane highway headed north, and the World War I monument dedicated on Memorial Day 1919 can be seen in the middle of Old Route 146. It was moved to the American Legion Building on Grooms Road in 1973. The two signs next to the monument give distances east to Schuylerville and Mechanicville, west to Schenectady and Ballston Lake, and south to Albany, Troy and Cohoes.





Calling All Neighbors!

Clifton Park Neighbors wants to feature YOU in our magazine!

We're looking for submissions on local events, neighbors to spotlight, projects you are working on, and highlights of your talents.

- Do you dabble in writing? Submit your poems or short stories!
- **Have a great original recipe?** Share it with us so other kitchens can enjoy it too!
- Love photography? Send us some of your best images to be featured in future issues!
- Are you an artist? Send us a picture of your latest work!
- Do you have a book or album coming out? Or, have you been featured in the media or won a prize? Tell us, so we can feature you and share the good news with our neighbors!

Looking forward to sharing all of the wonderful talent in our area!

Send all submissions to jcaputo@bestversionmedia.com.

















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February 2017 5



Looks to the Sweet Side

COVER STORY

By Jenna Caputo Photos by MarkBolles.com

Everything about Marisa Kane exudes romance. From her dreamy upbringing to her musical background, from marrying her college sweetheart to her optimistic view on life, and even right down to writing her own romance novel, Marisa Kane knows all about the softer side of life.

As a child growing up in Port Ewen, a small village in the Hudson Valley that sits between the river and a creek, Marisa always enjoyed reading. She could also be found playing with her dollhouse or on a swing tethered to a massive oak tree. From Marisa's description, her childhood setting could easily be from a romance novel itself: "The swing swung out over the slope of our backyard, which backed up to an oak forest. It was heaven. If I walked far enough through the woods, I could come to a rocky peak above the creek. It was never more beautiful than in the snow. There was a little stand of fir trees surrounding the rocks. Heavenly. I also loved to help my mother and our neighbor in their gardens. I grew up surrounded by flowers."

She developed a passion for singing

and sang all throughout school. Advised to pursue music (specifically opera) as a career, she attended Saint Rose in Albany on a partial scholarship for music. She was a beautiful singer, but realized she didn't have the competitive nature or killer instinct needed to make her hobby into a profession. "As often happens with hobbies or interests you love when you are young, as soon as you try to make something a profession or become too serious about it, you lose the joy," she remarks. "That was true for me in terms of music and performing. I sang constantly in high

school and college. I had the soprano solo in Anton Bruckner's 'Te Deum' my senior year with The College of St. Rose Masterworks Chorale. My senior recital was in five languages, and for the finale I did 'Quando M'en Yo' from *La Boheme*. It seems like another person after all this time. One who could hit high C. Now? Er... not so much."

Not really sure what to do without music, she decided to apply to law school and started on a new track at Albany Law. "I don't know why I thought I wouldn't need a competitive nature or killer instinct for law school. I didn't last long. I completed the first semester and even went back for the second semester. I think I made it a week before I withdrew and signed up for paralegal school. It was a much better fit for me in terms of temperament and I didn't have to live with singing lawyer jokes."

Marisa can't remember a time when

she didn't have a secret wish to write a romance novel, but she never even considered writing as a serious vocation until after both her children were in school. "If memory serves, I

did have a couple of English teachers in high school who recommended it to me as a possible major in college. As my husband's grandmother was fond of saying, 'too soon old, too late smart.'" Despite her lack of formal training, she felt the need to seize the



opportunity once her youngest child went to kindergarten. So she sat down to write.

Inspiration wasn't a problem since she already had a lot of characters spinning around in her head. She of character-driven, contemporary romance stories. "They are charming, warm-hearted versions of reality," Marisa says, "They are sentimental and sweet, but not saccharine. They're light, easy-reading that you can pull

up on your favorite e-reader and finish in a weekend."

She draws much inspiration from two of her favorite books, *Little Women* and *The Wind in the Willows*. "They are beautifully crafted stories

about characters and I'm a characterdriven reader as much as I am a character-driven writer. It's just my nature to be that way. They made me want to create characters that become real to me and take on a life of their own. Characters that begin to write

Love is the oldest – and best – story going. It motivates people like nothing else. It is at the heart of everyone's being. To love and be loved is the greatest purpose a life can have.

knew she needed to get focused and be disciplined. It worked. Her first novel, *A Match Made in Heritage View*, was published in May of 2016. The second novel in the series, *Engaged in Heritage View*, is due out this April. The Heritage View series is comprised

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themselves." That inspiration must be working. With her second book out this spring, she's already working on the third and is hoping to have it published in 2018.

Marisa writes under the pen name of Annie Stiles. She doesn't use the pseudonym for secrecy so much as a way to create a mental separation and persona. The name is homage to her family. "The Annie came from my middle name, Ann, which I share with my mom who is an avid reader and lifetime bookworm," she explains. "She passionately and delightedly encouraged my love of books and was my very first reader. The Stiles is a twist on my maiden name. I played around with the letters. The initials A.S. for Annie Stiles are also my father's initials, and he has no middle name so Annie doesn't either. I get my flair for romance and drama from my dad."

Sometimes romance can be looked on with scorn – whether if it's a book, a 'chick flick', or a view on life – but no one can deny the appeal in general. It also happens to be the top-selling genre of popular fiction year after year. So just what is the appeal? Marisa gets right to the heart of it all. "There is very little time in the modern world to be sentimental, whimsical or even just

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simply optimistic. Love is the oldest and best – story going. It motivates people like nothing else. It is at the heart of everyone's being. To love and be loved is the greatest purpose a life can have, in my mind. And, aside from that loftier concept, it is truly fun. What gets more airtime than romance? Movies,

music, television – everyone loves a good love story. Even the best dramas or thrillers manage to weave in a love story."

Marisa's real life is filled with love as well. Her husband, Matt, is her biggest supporter. "We were college sweethearts and he knew I could do this before I knew it. What better hero could I write than that?" she says. They have two children, Max (9) and Molly (7), who are proud and enthusiastic about their author mom. Their family also has 2 cats – Daphne and Duncan. "And yes, we realize that Matthew, Marisa, Maxwell, Molly and Duncan and Daphne is a lot of alliteration for one household," says Marisa. "It's a little sappy and cute, but what can I say? I'm a romance novelist!"

Besides romance and her family, Marisa still enjoys classical music and especially loves to listen to it during her commutes to and from her current day job as a copyeditor for the New York State Bar Association. She spends a lot of time in her garden, carrying on the tradition from her youth. "People always say gardening is the ultimate act of faith and optimism, which I believe is true. But, I also believe it is the ultimate marriage of the past and the future, and the purest way to celebrate the present. Plus, have you ever smelled a peony? Heavenly." She is also passionate about her faith, reading, golf, feeding the birds and



dessert. "Definitely dessert," she says.

The tagline on her website reads, "Rose-colored glasses are standard issue." While some may be sheepish to admit they enjoy the softer side of life and being in love with love, Marisa says it's ok every now and then to put on those glasses. "Life can be tough sometimes, and there is nothing wrong with putting on those rose-colored glasses to see the sweeter side. If you do that often enough, you might not need the glasses anymore. Watch the sappy movie, sing the cheesy love song, and yes, read the romance novel!"

She may be a romance writer, but you'll find that she's not into big Valentine's Day gestures. That's because she has a *true* romantic's heart when it comes to expressions of love. "Love is for every day, not a special occasion, and romantic gestures should be inspired not required. Does that sound too romance writer-y?" she laughs. "But I wouldn't say no to some truffles, either." Dessert it is then. The sweet side of life always wins out.

The Annie Stiles Heritage View books are available on Amazon or through her website at www.anniestiles.com.

Do you know a neighbor who has a story to share? Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at jcaputo@bestversionmedia. com.

FREE OF FEAR:

How Wellspring is Driving Social Changes

By Ally Donovan

There is no single profile of an abuser, or of an abused person – anyone can become the victim of relationship and sexual abuse. Surprising as it may seem, domestic violence is the #1 cause of family homelessness in Saratoga County, the #2 violent crime and the #2 cause of homicide. 35 years ago, a group of concerned community members saw a need to provide safety for those experiencing domestic violence. They believed everyone is entitled to a life free from fear and violence, and that a place to be safe could lead to a lifetime free of abuse.

Wellspring offers crisis intervention and support to over 1,000 victims of domestic and sexual violence every year, and serves loved ones, neighbors and co-workers in their efforts to help someone in need. Founded on the belief that no one should be controlled or afraid of someone they love, Wellspring strives to create a community without relationship and sexual abuse.

Types of Domestic Abuse



All of Wellspring's care and services are confidential, non-judgmental and free of charge. In addition to its 24/7 hotline and secure emergency shelter, the agency also offers counseling, safety planning, legal advocacy and case management to its clients. "We saw how teaching someone about power and control could keep them safe and help them make informed decisions – how learning the basic skills of financial literacy could lead to safety and financial independence," writes Maggie Fronk, executive director.

However, Wellspring's greater vision is engaging the community in a way that will end relationship and sexual abuse. Wellspring hopes to shed light on these complex issues by investing in educational programs for schools,



promoting training programs for businesses and working with community leaders. While helping victims in need is a major focus of the agency's mission, Wellspring recognizes that the best way to end intimate partner violence is by increasing awareness of the issue. Fronk writes, "By investing in prevention, we know that we can affect and create real social change, where people know they don't have to live in fear, and more importantly, our society will no longer *accept or tolerate* domestic violence or sexual assault."

To donate, please visit NYCharities.org. Or mail a check to: 480 Broadway, LL20
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 ■

Know of a great local non-profit? Let us know so we can spotlight them here. Send submissions to jcaputo@bestversionmedia.com



February 2-11

DIAL M FOR MURDER

@Curtain Call Theatre, Latham Deception, betrayal, passion & greed prove potent ingredients for a perfect mystery in this intense and gripping thriller. Retired tennis player Tony Wendice married his wife Margot for her money. Now he plans to kill her for the same reason. When his precise murder plot goes awry, can he improvise an equally deadly plan B?

Time: Thurs. 7:30pm, Fri & Sat 8pm, Sun 3pm Cost: \$24

Friday, Feb 3

ROCK OUT! FAMILY FRIENDLY ROCK & ROLL PARTY

@Albany Institute of History & Art, Albany

Bring the whole family and join us for a lively last celebration of the Rock & Roll Icons exhibition! We'll kick off the celebration by breaking open a papier mache guitar piñata and compare how it looks to the real one on view broken by Pete Townsend. There will be music & karaoke, and visitors will have the chance to get their faces painted in styles like rock and rollers David Bowie and the band KISS.

Time: 5-8pm Cost: FREE

Friday, Feb 3

13TH ANNUAL WINTERFEST WINE & BEER TASTING

@Holiday Inn, Saratoga
Sample a selection of delicious &
affordable wines and beers paired
with a lavish display of savory hors
d'oeuvres. Proceeds to benefit the
Wesley Foundation and Relay for
Life: American Cancer Society. Call
584-4550 for more info.

Time: 6-8 pm

Cost: \$20 per person or \$30 per couple

Saturday, Feb 4 CHOWDERFEST 2017

@Saratoga Springs
Stroll through downtown Saratoga
and purchase a cup of chowder
from as many participating
establishments as you'd like. Some
will offer classic varieties while
some may serve original, unique
concoctions! Be sure to vote for your
favorite! For more info, visit www.
discoversaratoga.org/chowderfest
Time: 11am-4pm | Cost: \$1 per cup

Wednesday, Feb 8

SWEETHEART SIP & PAINT @Villago Pizzeria & Ristorante, Ballston Lake

Fee includes wine, hors d'oeuvres, art supplies and crystal wine glass. Additional glasses will be available for purchase. Hosted by local artist Morgan Lansing. Call 280-0311 to reserve your spot!

Time: 6pm | Cost: \$30 per person





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Mon. Tues. Wed. 8:30 - 5:00 Thurs. 8:30 - 8:00 Fri. 8:30 - 5:00 Sat. 10:00 - 2:00 EVENINGS BY APPOINTMENT

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Cost: Weekend Pass \$14; Fri. \$5 online or at door; Sat. or Sun. \$8 online only, \$10 door; Free for children under 14 accompanied by an adult

Saturday, Feb 11

ANDY BLACK

@Upstate Concert Hall
The debut album from Andy
Black combines timeless American
iconography like crisp leather
jackets, vintage Hollywood, teen
idols, and rebels of every stripe with
the broadminded arena bombast
of sophisticated pop, the devilishly
romantic seduction of dark-wave
devotion, and the biting style of
music's sharp-tongued and best
dressed paramours, all within its
ambitious sights and sounds.
Time: 6:30pm

Tuesday, Feb 14

SINGING VALENTINES

@Electric City Chorus Electric City Chorus will travel all around the Capital District Region for Valentine's Weekend at offices, schools, restaurants, hospitals, nursing homes – any place you can think of. Singers will form a number of barbershop quartets & deliver a sampler of chocolates, personalized Valentine card, beautiful longstemmed rose and sing at least 2 love songs to a person(s) of your choice. To order, call 518-365-4094. More details at http://www. electriccitychorus.org/New_ECC_ Site/Welcome.html Cost: \$50

Wednesday, Feb 15

CLIFTON PARK NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

@Clifton Park Nursery School, 344 Moe Rd.

Join our open house to learn more about CPNS, a family-centered program, providing a cooperative organization in which our parents, children & teachers all work and play together to create a school environment that is supportive and enriching for all members. The play-based programs offer children an opportunity to grow socially, intellectually & emotionally. Currently offering classes for 2,3,4,5 year olds. To learn more, call 371-5850.

Time: 5-7pm ∣ *Cost: FREE*

Friday-Sunday, Feb 17-19

THE 30TH ANNUAL FLURRY FESTIVAL

@Saratoga Springs City Center Shake off the winter blues and dance, sing, jam, join family events, concerts, storytelling and more at The Flurry! Over 300 performers at 5 venues with over 200 events all weekend long!

Time: Fri. 7pm-1am; Sat. 9am-1am; Sun. 9am-9pm

Cost: Prices vary.

Call 518-384-3275 for more info.

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Saturday, Feb 18

8TH ANNUAL MAC-N-CHEESE BOWI

@Marcelle Athletic Complex, Siena College, Albany

Taste dozens of varieties of the dish prepared by local restaurants. Then vote for your favorites! Tickets cover tastings from every restaurant. Proceeds benefit the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY.

Time: Two tasting sessions:

11am or 12:30pm Cost: \$20 adults; \$5 kids ages 5-12

Saturday – Sunday, Feb 18-19

ROCK & FOSSIL FAIR

@New York State Museum, Albany Meet at the museum's main lobby and mine for minerals, dig for fossils and make scientific observations at this event all about rocks and minerals.

Time: 12-3pm Cost: FREE

Monday-Friday, Feb 20-24

CAMP SARATOGA WINTER VACATION PROGRAMS

@Wilton Wildlife Preserve Park, Gansevoort

Programs offered throughout the week including: Animal Tracking Hike, Marshmallow Glaciers, Skull Science, Owl Prowls, Winter Nature Scavenger Hunt, Natural Picture Frame Making

Time: Times vary

Cost: FREE, \$3 snow shoe rental for

non-members

Tuesday, Feb 21

STEM WORKSHOP: BUILDING BIG DAY

@Museum of Innovation & Science, Schenectady

Help keep the kids busy with half-day STEM workshops. Morning or Afternoon sessions for grades K-2, 3-5, or 6-8. Topics include: Design, Build, Create, KEVA!; Movers & Shakers;

Castles & Catapults; Engineering Challenge. Call 518-382-7890 to register.

Time: Times vary based on workshop Cost: \$25 *per student*

Tuesday & Thursday, Feb 21 & 23

KIDS COOKING - HARRY POTTER PARTY!

@Serendipity Arts Studio, Saratoga Join an interactive cooking class that focuses on kitchen techniques and understanding recipes. Then eat what you made! Sibling Discount applies. For ages 7+ for drop-off, or younger children welcome with an adult to assist. Registration required. Tues – Harry Potter recipes; Thurs – Kids Baking 101: Cupcakes & Scones *Time: Tues, 10am & 1pm; Thurs. 10am Cost:* \$25





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Welcome to the Neighborhood

By Pete Bardunias, President/CEO, the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County

Mediterranean flair comes to the Clifton Park Center Mall, as Alaturco Mediterranean Cuisine (518-357-3031, www. alaturcomediterraneancuisine.com) opens directly across from the north mall entrance. Pictured at center is owner Rauf Ziya along with Guven Yalcintas surrounded by staff, volunteer CSSC Ambassadors and neighbors from DCG Development, Hilton Garden Inn and NBT Bank. Joining in is Assemblyman Jim Tedisco; Pete Bardunias, CSSC President/CEO and Nigar Hale, CSSC Vice President of Marketing and Membership Development. Flanking the ribbon are Tom Cronin of Success Magazine and Garry Packer, representing Viridian Energy. Alaturco Mediterranean Cuisine is open 7 days a week serving both lunch and dinner, beer and wine.

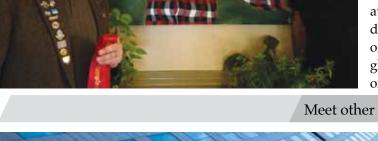




Power's Inn & Pub (518-406-5561, www.

powersinnandpub.com) celebrated 5 years in business in their historic building at the corner of Route 9 and Farm to Market Rd, 130 Meyer Rd, Clifton Park. Here, owner Bryah Gifford poses with CSSC President/CEO Pete Bardunias and a full-sized painting of his grandfather, Paul Patterson Power himself, nicknamed P3. Mr. Power had a larger than life personality with a big Irish heart, and is the example the family continues to live by in serving their customers at the restaurant and pub. There are daily dinner specials, drinks and a rotating craft beer selection. Frequent patrons of Power's Inn & Pub might be treated to a few interesting ghost stories, as some of the alleged paranormal activities on the site are legendary!

Meet other business neighbors at www.southernsaratoga.org.







www.kpmgrouptax.com

The Power of Music

Contributed by Baptist Health System

A 92-year-old gentleman comes in to a skilled nursing facility every morning to visit his wife. Sometimes she's sleepy and doesn't immediately respond to his words and kisses. A little later he places a small speaker next to her ear, where she wears a hearing aid. The speaker is connected to an iPod shuffle containing hundreds of songs that the couple enjoyed in the early days of their long marriage. Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald and Glenn Miller are among the artists whose music wafts through the hall as he moves her wheelchair around. Sometimes when she hears the music. she opens her eyes wide and begins to speak. Her husband dances and sings along, and smiles. "It helps both of us," he says of the program called Music & Memory.

Music & Memory™ is a non-profit organization that brings personalized music into the lives of the elderly or infirm through digital technology, vastly improving quality of life. Executive Director Dan Cohen founded the program in 2006, thinking that if he were in a nursing home he would want to be able to listen to his favorite 60's music. Since iPods were becoming popular and accessible, he pursued his idea by volunteering at a nursing home and creating personalized playlists for residents. The initial program was a hit, and now there are hundreds of Music & Memory certified facilities in the U.S. and Canada.

Music & Memory's work is rooted in extensive neuroscience research. Music is beneficial to persons with advanced dementia, provides enjoyment for bed-bound residents, increases cooperation and attention, reduces agitation and enhances engagement and socialization. It's a valuable tool to reduce reliance on anti-psychotic medications. Nursing staff notices that music helps to calm residents down and makes their jobs easier to do.

A big difference between this program and simply playing music in resident areas is that each resident's playlist





Photo courtesy of musicandmemory.org

is specific to his/her music preference, and the iPod allows residents to listen to their music anywhere, anytime, without interfering with others' activities. Staff members, volunteers and family members are all recruited to help discover which artists and songs will unlock memories for each resident.

For more information, visit www.bapthealth.com or call 518-*370-4700.* ■



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Help Your Child Reach Their Full Academic Potential

Contributed by Nourishing Minds Tutoring

Nourishing Minds Tutoring was created by Chris and Lauren Leuzinger in 2014, and has quickly become the premier tutoring service in the Capital Region of Upstate New York. Together Chris and Lauren have nearly twenty years experience in education.

Nourishing Minds Tutoring believes all children have the right to learn, and deserve to succeed in school. They specialize in tutoring children in grades Kindergarten through 8 in the core school subjects of English Language Arts (Reading and Writing) and Math. Nourishing Minds Tutoring understands all children learn differently, and truly goes above and beyond to ensure their success. Tutors work closely with families, as well as with schools, to understand the educational needs of each child. Lessons are typically one hour in duration, but many families choose one and a half hour sessions (especially with children receiving tutoring in multiple subjects).

Nourishing Minds **Tutoring** School struggles? Homework struggles? A professional tutor can: • Build Confidence • Raise Grades Eliminate Stress We specialize in reading, writing, math, common core, and autism support. In-home tutoring services 1 Assessment & 1 Tutoring Session FREE (a \$99 value) 518-415-2423 www.nourishingmindstutoring.com

Here's how it works. A detailed and comprehensive assessment is conducted. The assessment indicates the strengths and potential next steps for learning. Parents are given a detailed report outlining the assessment and a specific educational plan is formulated. Learning is truly individualized to the needs of each child.

Different services include:

- Personalized learning
- Engaging lessons linked to current school work
- Convenient lessons from the comfort of your own home
- Detailed assessments
- Affordable rates and payment plans
- Excellent communication
- Qualified and experienced teachers
- Consultation services
- Autism support
- Homework help
- Test preparation

Whether your child excels at school or finds learning to be a challenge, private tutoring may be the answer.



The Leuzinger Family

With the introduction of the Common Core State Standards, many children are finding the transition and different learning styles to be difficult. Parents also find it difficult to support their children at home as they are unfamiliar with the new teaching and learning styles. Also, with increasingly busy schedules, families often don't have the time they need to support their children's learning at home.

Nourishing Minds Tutoring is committed to providing a positive, safe and productive environment that fosters learning to improve confidence and self-esteem. Empowering students with the skills to become confident, effective and independent thinkers and learners will allow them to reach their full academic potential.

Contact Nourishing Minds Tutoring to learn how they can help your child: 518-415-2423

www.nourishingmindstutoring.com nourishingmindstutoring@gmail.com



Change Screams Discomfort!

By Beth Grzyboski, MBA, Associate Broker, Keller Williams Capital District Realty

As I settle cozily by the hearthside into middle age, those in my circle are facing major life transitions such as divorce, job relocation, retirement, parent deaths and young adult children leaving the nest. Nothing screams discomfort more than change! And, since we're emotionally tethered to our homes, they too must weather the storm.

How can a real estate professional help? The key is finding one that balances the emotions of family members while keeping the lines of communication open with all. Not as easy as it sounds.

For example, parent deaths leave adult siblings, often living in different parts of the country or even the world, with the huge task of emptying the parental home and working remotely with an agent to list and sell it. Established agents bring with them a roster of home improvement professionals (i.e., painters, landscapers, appraisers, estate sales companies, etc.) to prepare the home for market. Most importantly, a family point person is assigned to work on behalf of the family and work singularly with the agent to keep communications clear and concise.

Divorcing couples, on the other hand, may present another challenge communication wrought with emotion. It's thus incumbent upon the agent to provide the marital parties with a centered, calm approach that is objective and non-partial. The communication channels must be open with information disseminated to both parties consistently so that all stay abreast of the sale's progress.

On the other end of the spectrum, home buyers face the stress of fluctuating credit scores and interest rates, mortgage applications, home inspections and delayed closing time frames. My advice: stay on top of the paperwork, ask lots of questions directed to the loan officer, real estate agent and attorney, then let the process unfold naturally. By straining and trying to control every phase

of the process will be sure to leave all involved frustrated and exhausted.

Rely on your agent because we're here to take the burden off. Remain calm and focused and don't let the change leave you off balance and uncomfortable!





Your Journey Home begins with Beth Grzyboski

- selling and buying single family homes
- ✓ homes in transition: divorce, downsizing, estates, re-locations
- ✓ preparing home improvement plans for selling your home in 2017
- ✓ social media sales strategies executed to sell homes to today's tech savvy buyers

CAPITAL DISTRIC

Beth Grzyboski,

Associate Broker

Accredited Buyer Representative Keller Williams Capital District

www.BethSellsCliftonPark.com | (518) 877-5929 | GoSeeBethG@kw.com

Call For Artists!

Contributed by Emma Huneck, Saratoga Arts

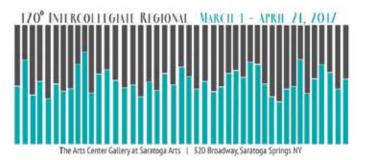
Saratoga Arts is partnering with LARAC and the Arts Center of the Capital Region to present the 120° Intercollegiate Art Regional. Originally developed by LARAC in 2013 to support college students, the 120° Intercollegiate Regional provides visibility for college students' artwork and an educational platform to introduce young artists to professional opportunities and



local services. The annual juried exhibition now travels to a different host site each year, highlighting the best of artwork created by students who currently attend accredited colleges and universities located within 120 miles of Saratoga Springs, Glens Falls or Troy, New York. This year, the exhibition will be held at Saratoga Arts from March 4 - April 21, 2017.

Applications are due no later than February 6, 2017. For more information and to apply, please visit www. saratoga-arts.org/exhibitions/artistopportunities. Clifton-Park Halfmoon Public Library Display

On display this month at the Clifton-Park Halfmoon Public Library are paintings by Jane Agee and photographs by David Waite. Both exhibits are located upstairs and promise to be impressive. Don't miss them!



February Break Art & Theater Camps

Spend February break creatively! Saratoga Arts offers full day art and theater camps for kids ages 6-14. At the end of the week, art camp ends with an exhibition of works highlighting lessons and projects - and friends and family of campers are invited to attend! Theater campers will play theater, acting & improv games in a fun and supportive environment as they work toward the performance of their play for friends and family on the last day of each session. For more information, please visit www.saratoga-arts.org/education/artcamps.



Winterfest Town of CLIFTON PARK

Clifton Park Winterfest

The Town of Clifton Park presents Winterfest 2017 on Saturday, February 11th from 11am-4pm!

Join your family and neighbors in this day of fun and excitement in and out of the cold! Winter activities, family fun, face painting, entertainment and local competitions are just some of the things you can expect this year. Sample soups from various restaurants and vote for your favorite. Hop over to Riverview Orchards for horse-drawn sleigh rides and lunch on the farm. Enjoy the Clifton Park Community Chorus and, of course, be sure to check out the Clifton Park Idol Contest.

For more information on Clifton Park Winterfest, call the Town Parks, Recreation & Community Affairs office at 518-371-6667.

Clifton Park Idol Contest

Do you love to sing?

Have you ever dreamed of singing in front of a large audience?

Now is your chance to make your dreams happen! Clifton Park Idol registrations have started to come in. Sign your young singer up today! For youth in divisions of ages 6-12 and 13-17 (or 18 if senior in high school). Prizes include gift cards to Clifton Park Center, Stewart's Shoppes and Spare Time Bowling. Spaces are limited so sign up today!

For more information on the Clifton Park Idol contest of Winterfest please contact the Town of Clifton Park at 371-6667. You can find the application at http://www.cliftonpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Clifton-Park-Idol-Registration.pdf



Our 110-unit independent living community is designed for those 55+ who want to maintain an active, healthy lifestyle without all the hassles of home ownership.

Community highlights include:

- Mix of one- and two-bedroom apartments ranging from 715 to 1,095 square feet
- Transportation services
- Senior Engaged Life® program, which promotes healthy aging through varied physical and social programs
- Balconies/patios for all apartments
- Full-size washers and dryers

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IMPORTANT TOWN PHONE NUMBERS

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Town Board Members	371-6651
Animal Control Officer	371-6756
Town Attorney Tom McCarthy	371-6651
Assessor Walter Smead	371-6460
Building & Development Director	
Steve Myers	371-6702
Building & Grounds Director	
Mike Handerhan	371-6651

Town Clerk Pat O'Donnell371-6681
Town Court, 5 Municipal Plaza371-6668
Storm Water Management Technician
Scott Reese371-6054
Director of Communications & Tech
Dahn Bull371-6651
Highway Superintendent Rick Kukuk371-7310
Parks and Recreation Director
<i>Myla Kramer.</i> 371-6667

Planning Director John Scavo	.371-6054
Receiver of Taxes Lorraine Varley	.371-5720
Director of Safety and Security	
Lou Pasquarel	.348-7311
Town Security Officers	.369-6651
Sewer Director Mike O'Brien	.348-7313
Transfer Station Supervisor	
Jeff Vedder	.371-6669

If the person you wish to reach is not on the list above, please call 371-6651 to speak to a receptionist who will direct your call to the appropriate individual or department. The Town's office buildings are open from Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm, excluding holidays. The Town Clerk's Office is open until 7pm every Thursday. The Building and Parks and Recreation Departments are open at 8am Monday through Friday.



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